

Patent
Attorney's Docket No. 000600-034RECEIVED
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REMARKS

The Examiner has maintained rejection based on Juda and Wanngard.

The object of Wanngard is to provide pH adjusting chemicals by integrated production of acid and alkali metal hydroxide. A further object is to produce chlorate in an energy-efficient manner, involving significantly reduced health and environmental hazards, and making superfluous a large portion of the chemicals added in conventional processes for acidification and alkalization (col.1, 1.5-9, col.2, 1.46-52).

Wanngard is silent on processes employing a gas diffusion electrode in the cathode compartment to which an oxygen-containing gas is introduced rather than a liquid catholyte as disclosed in Wanngard. It is questionable if Wanngard at all could provide for increased supply of internally produced pH adjusting chemicals by replacing the catholyte compartment with a compartment comprising a gas diffusion electrode to which oxygen-containing gas is introduced.

Juda is silent on providing a process for production of chlorate in which anolyte is transferred to a chlorate reactor to produce a more concentrated alkali metal chlorate than is obtained in the anolyte compartment. Furthermore, as can be clearly seen from the electrode of Juda referred to in Fig.2 (especially pointed out in the office action) is immersed in an electrolytic solution (19).

The process of applicants' claim 1, on the contrary, involves introduction of oxygen-containing gas into a cathode compartment comprising a gas diffusion electrode which is not immersed in electrolyte. An electrolyte would considerably hinder the diffusion of oxygen to the electrode which would slow down the reduction reaction disclosed on p.1, 1.19-21 of the present specification as well as the overall formation of chlorate.

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Thus, a skilled person would still not arrive at the presently claimed invention even though Wanngard being silent on the use of gas diffusion electrodes would be combined with Juda, because Juda is silent on disclosing chlorate producing processes in which the gas diffusion electrode is not immersed in electrolyte.

Applicants therefore respectfully request that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case.

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Respectfully submitted,

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